

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 012713

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06

OMB-01 AGRE-00 L-03 EB-07 SS-15 /081 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/B:RSPACE:AG

APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE

ARA:WLUERS

S/NM:MCHESHES

S/NM:RNICHOLSON

-----192220Z 103078 /64

P R 192050Z JAN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012713

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT'S MEETING WITH BOLIVIAN MINISTER OF
INTERIOR PEREDA ASBUN

SUMMARY: GENERAL PEREDA MET WITH AMBASSADOR SHELDON VANCE
OF S/NM JANUARY 13 FOR A FRANK DISCUSSION OF OUR CURRENT
PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH BOLIVIA IN THE FIELDS OF NAR-
COTICS CONTROL, ENFORCEMENT AND -- POTENTIALLY -- COCA
CROP SUBSTITUTION. THE CONVERSATION REPRESENTS A FURTHER
SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MUTUAL UNDER-
STANDING BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER THE MANY COMPLEX
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SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL PEREDA MET WITH AMBASSADOR VANCE AND HIS STAFF,
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JANUARY 13 TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF CURRENT U.S.-BOLIVIAN
BILATERAL PROGRAMS ON NARCOTICS MATTERS. ROBERT PACE,
COUNTRY OFFICER FOR BOLIVIA, SERVED AS GENERAL PEREDA'S
ESCORT - INTERPRETER FOR HIS VISIT TO THE DEPARTMENT.

2. COCA SUBSTITUTION: MARKETS AND PRICES: FOLLOWING

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS BY AMBASSADOR VANCE, GENERAL PEREDA COMMENCED A DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM OF COCA CROP SUBSTITUTION, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS THE GREATEST PROBLEM FACING OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD. NOTING THAT THE FINANCIAL ADVANTAGES ACCRUING TO THE CAMPESINO FROM COCA-PRODUCTION MAKE COCA SUBSTITUTION A MAJOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUE IN BOLIVIA, PEREDA INDICATED THAT HIS CONCERNS ARE NOT RESTRICTED TO THE SEARCH FOR SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE CROPS. SOME SUCH TYPE OF CROPS, INCLUDING FRUIT, COFFEE AND OTHER PRODUCTS, ALREADY ARE IDENTIFIED. THE KEY ISSUE IS ASSURING AN INT'L MARKET FOR SUCH PRODUCTS, TOGETHER WITH A REASONABLE AND STEADY PRICE LEVEL. RAPID ALTERATIONS IN PRICE, WHICH CAN OCCUR IN SUCH WIDELY VARYING PRODUCTS AS SUGAR, COTTON AND TIN, COULD BRING ABOUT THE COMPLETE FAILURE OF ANY GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED COCA CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM. THE GOB WOULD BE FACED WITH A LOSS OF SUPPORT FROM THE CAMPESINOS AND AN UNSUCCESSFUL NATIONAL POLICY. PEREDA NOTED THAT THE BOLIVIAN CAMPESINO HAS NOT BENEFITTED ECONOMICALLY FROM THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR COCA BY INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS, SINCE THE PROFITS FROM THE TRAFFIC ARE SIPHONED OFF BY MIDDLEMEN AND THE TRAFFICKERS. WHAT IS NEEDED IS AN OVERALL IMPROVEMENT IN THE CAMPESINOS ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL LEVEL, A NEW MENTALITY. IN PART FOR THIS REASON, HE ADDED, THE GOB WILL SHORTLY CREATE BY DECREE A NEW OFFICE DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CROP SUBSTITUTION EFFORT. THIS WILL NOT BE MERELY ANOTHER BUREAUCRACY, HE STATED, BUT AN EFFECTIVE ACTION-ORIENTED OFFICE. RETURNING TO HIS PREVIOUS THEME OF THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSURED MARKETS AND PRICE LEVELS FOR THE NEW CROPS TO REPLACE COCA, PEREDA CONCLUDED BY ASKING IF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OR ANOTHER USG OFFICE COULD REACH ACCORDS WITH BOLIVIA ASSURING MARKETS AND PRICES FOR THESE CROPS.

3. AMBASSADOR VANCE RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT WE RECOGNIZE THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MORAL PROBLEMS CREATED FOR BOLIVIA BY THIS PROGRAM. NONETHELESS, OUR ECONOMY IS STRUCTURED IN A WAY WHICH MAKES VERY DIFFICULT ANY AGREEMENT OF THE KIND PROPOSED BY MINISTER PEREDA. INSTEAD, VANCE SUGGESTED, BOLIVIA MIGHT CONSIDER INTEGRATING INTO THE CROP SUBSTITUTION EFFORT PROCESSING PLANTS WITHIN THE COUNTRY - WHICH SHOULD HELP IN THIS REGARD. ALSO OUR STUDIES OF THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETING ENVIRONMENTS WHICH ALREADY FORM PART OF OUR ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL, AND THE USE OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS WITH SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE OF CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS SHOULD BE CHARGED WITH SEEKING WAYS TO ASSURE MARKETS. IN ADDITION, PRIVATE

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WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR OFFERS GREATER POSSIBILITIES FOR CREATING A MODERN AGRO-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IN BOLIVIA THAN WOULD STATE-TO-STATE COMMERCIAL ACCORDS. STATING THAT HE WAS THINKING ALOUD, PEREDA SUGGESTED THAT AN IDEAL SOLUTION WOULD BE THE FORMATION OF JOINT VENTURES BETWEEN U.S. AND BOLIVIAN FIRMS TO ESTABLISH CANNING, PROCESSING OR BOTTLING PLANTS FOR THE TYPES OF PRODUCTS EMERGING FROM ANY FUTURE COCA SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM. IN THIS REGARD, PEREDA ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE GOB IS IN TOUCH WITH THE CHAMBERS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN BOLIVIA, TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF BOLIVIAN PRIVATE CAPITAL TO FINANCE THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. U.S. PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA: AMBASSADOR VANCE NOTED THAT WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE STATUS OF U.S. CITIZEN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIAN JAILS. WHILE STATING THAT HE WOULD BE THE LAST TO REQUEST CLEMENCY FOR REAL TRAFFICKERS, HE NOTED THAT SOME PRISONERS HAVE NOT BEEN SENTENCED AFTER MORE THAN TWO YEARS IN PRISON. OTHERS ARE CHARGED WITH WHAT APPEARS TO BE DUBIOUS GROUNDS. VANCE MENTIONED THE POTENTIAL DOMESTIC CRITICISM ARISING OUT OF THE PRISONER ISSUE. HE ASKED THE MINISTER IF THE GOB COULD EXAMINE THE CASES WITH A VIEW TO EXPULSION OR PARDON IN THOSE CASES INVOLVING LESSER OFFENSES. PEREDA RESPONDED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH AMBASSADOR STEDMAN ON THIS PROBLEM AT VARIOUS TIMES. NOTING THAT MANY PRISONERS HAD BEEN PROCESSED THROUGH THE COURT SYSTEM, BUT WERE AWAITING THE REVISED LAW OF DECEMBER 1976, TO LIGHTEN THE POTENTIAL SENTENCES THEY MIGHT RECEIVE, HE STATED THAT THE LAWYERS FOR THESE PRISONERS HAD ABSTAINED FROM PRESSING THEIR CASES UNTIL THE REVISION WAS ISSUED. THE SUB-SECRETARY OF JUSTICE WILL MEET SOON WITH THE JUDGES; FISCALES AND COLONEL APARICIO TO REVIEW EACH CASE. IF THE INDIVIDUALS TURN OUT TO BE TRAFFICKERS, THE MINISTER STATED, THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN DO. BUT IF SMALLER VIOLATIONS ARE PROVEN, THEN BOLIVIA "WILL NOT BE UNJUST." IT WILL SEEK THE BEST SOLUTION TO THEIR CASES. THE
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-01 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY:IO:HDC:JJBUCZACKI
APPROVED BY:IO:HDC:RFANDREW
S:NM:SBVANCE (PHONE)
-----221201Z 010597 /22

R 220155Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION GENEVA 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012713

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED JANUARY 19,
1977 SENT LA PAZ INFO LIMA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012713

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: GS
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN ARA
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3555618
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT'S MEETING WITH BOLIVIAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR PEREDA ASBUN SUMMARY: GENERAL PEREDA MET WITH AMBASSADOR SHELTON
TAGS: SNAR, BL, US, (ASBUN, PEREDA), (VANCE, SHELTON)
To: LA PAZ
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b0508d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009